AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 3, 5, 7-8, 29-35, 37-39, 41, and 43-44, all as shown below. Applicant reserves the right to prosecute any originally presented or canceled claims in a continuing or future application.

1.   (Currently amended)   A method of searching a plurality of <u>service provider</u> content repositories, comprising:

providing for the representation of the plurality of <u>service provider</u> content repositories as a virtual content repository (VCR) that includes a content model, the content model including a set of content nodes and a set of hierarchy of nodes such that a content node is created for each of the plurality of <u>service provider</u> content repositories, each content node <u>identifies a service provider content repository, and each content node</u> is associated with its own content schema, a hierarchy node is created for different types of content available in the plurality of <u>service provider</u> content repositories, each hierarchy node is associated with one or more of the [[plurality]] <u>set</u> of content nodes, and each hierarchy node is associated with its own hierarchy schema;

~~searching the VCR for information that satisfies a search expression;~~

~~providing search results;~~

wherein each one of the plurality of <u>service provider</u> content repositories implements a service provider interface (SPI) that integrates <u>each of</u> the corresponding <u>service provider</u> content repositor[[y]]<u>ies as virtual components</u> into the VCR and such that each SPI interfaces between the VCR and the corresponding <u>service provider</u> content repository[[.]]<u>;</u>

<u>searching the VCR for information that satisfies a search expression, including searching over each of the virtual components and the service provider content repositories associated therewith; and</u>

<u>providing search results.</u>

2. (Canceled).

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein searching the VCR includes:

searching each of the plurality of <u>service provider</u> content repositories.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:

the search expression can include at least one of: a logical expression, a Boolean operator, a nested expression, an object name, a function/method call, a mathematical function, a mathematical operator, a string operator, an image operator, and Structured Query Language (SQL).

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein providing search results includes:

combining the results of searching each one of the plurality of <u>service provider</u> content repositories.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein providing search results includes:

caching the search results.

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein providing for the representation of the plurality of <u>service provider</u> content repositories as a VCR includes:

extending the content model to store information about the content model in the plurality of <u>service provider</u> content repositories.

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 7 wherein:

the content model provides a uniform representation of content for the plurality of <u>service provider</u> content repositories.

9. (Canceled).

10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein searching the VCR for information includes:

searching one or more of the content nodes, the content node schemas, the hierarchy nodes, and the hierarchy node schemas.

11-28. (Canceled).

29. (Currently amended) A computer readable medium for searching a plurality of <u>service provider</u> content repositories, the computer readable medium having instructions stored thereon that when executed by one or more processors on the computer cause the computer to perform the steps of:

    providing for the representation of the plurality of <u>service provider</u> content repositories as a virtual content repository (VCR) that includes a content model, wherein providing comprises the substeps of:

        implementing by each one of the plurality of <u>service provider</u> content repositories a service provider interface (SPI) to integrate <u>each of</u> the corresponding <u>service provider</u> content repositor[[y]]<u>ies as virtual components</u> into the VCR;

        interfacing by the SPI between the VCR and the corresponding <u>service provider</u> content repository;

        creating a content node for each of the plurality of <u>service provider</u> content repositories<u>, such that each node identifies a service provider content repository</u>;

        associating each content node with its own schema;

        creating a hierarchy node for different types of content available in the plurality of <u>service provider</u> content repositories;

        associating each hierarchy node with one or more <u>content nodes</u> <s>of the plurality of content repositories</s>; <u>and</u>

        associating each hierarchy node with its own schema;

    searching the VCR for information that satisfies a search expression<u>, including searching over each of the virtual components and the service provider content repositories associated therewith</u>; and

    providing search results.

30. (Currently amended) The [[method]] <u>computer readable medium</u> of claim 29, wherein searching the VCR includes:

    searching each of the plurality of <u>service provider</u> content repositories.

31. (Currently amended) The [[method]] <u>computer readable medium</u> of claim 29 wherein:

    the search expression can include at least one of: a logical expression, a Boolean operator, a nested expression, an object name, a function/method call, a mathematical function, a mathematical operator, a string operator, an image operator, and Structured Query Language (SQL).

32. (Currently amended) The [[method]] <u>computer readable medium</u> of claim 29, wherein providing search results includes:

combining the results of searching each one of the plurality of <u>service provider</u> service provider content repositories.

33. (Currently amended) The [[method]] <u>computer readable medium</u> of claim 29, wherein providing search results includes:

caching the search results.

34. (Currently amended) The [[method]] <u>computer readable medium</u> of claim 29, wherein providing for the representation of the plurality of <u>service provider</u> content repositories as a VCR includes:

extending the content model to store information about the content model in the plurality of <u>service provider</u> content repositories.

35. (Currently amended) The [[method]] <u>computer readable medium</u> of claim 34 wherein:

the content model provides a uniform representation of content for the plurality of <u>service provider</u> content repositories.

36. (Canceled).

37. (Currently amended) The [[method]] <u>computer readable medium</u> of claim 29, wherein searching the VCR for information includes:

searching one or more of the content nodes, the content node schemas, the hierarchy nodes, and the hierarchy node schemas.

38. (Currently amended) A method of searching a plurality of <u>service provider</u> content repositories, comprising:

providing for the representation of the plurality of <u>service provider</u> content repositories as a virtual content repository (VCR) that includes a content model, wherein providing comprises the substeps of:

implementing by each one of the plurality of <u>service provider</u> content repositories a service provider interface (SPI) to integrate <u>each of</u> the corresponding <u>service provider</u>

content repositor[[y]]ies as virtual components into the VCR;

interfacing by the SPI between the VCR and the corresponding service provider content repository;

creating a content node for each of the plurality of service provider content repositories, such that each node identifies a service provider content repository;

associating each content node with its own schema;

creating a hierarchy node for different types of content available in the plurality of service provider content repositories;

associating each hierarchy node with one or more content nodes of the plurality of content repositories; and

associating each hierarchy node with its own schema;

searching the VCR for information that satisfies a search expression, including searching over each of the virtual components and the service provider content repositories associated therewith; and

providing search results.

39. (Currently amended) The method of claim 38 wherein searching the VCR includes:

searching each of the plurality of service provider content repositories.

40. (Previously presented) The method of claim 38 wherein:

the search expression can include at least one of: a logical expression, a Boolean operator, a nested expression, an object name, a function/method call, a mathematical function, a mathematical operator, a string operator, an image operator, and Structured Query Language (SQL).

41. (Currently amended) The method of claim 38 wherein providing search results includes:

combining the results of searching each one of the plurality of service provider content repositories.

42. (Previously presented) The method of claim 38 wherein providing search results includes:

caching the search results.

43. (Currently amended) The method of claim 38 wherein providing for the representation of the plurality of content repositories as a VCR includes:

extending a VCR content model to include information in the plurality of <u>service provider</u> content repositories.

44. (Currently amended) The method of claim 43 wherein:

the content model provides a uniform representation of content for the plurality of <u>service provider</u> content repositories.

45. (Previously presented) The method of claim 18 wherein searching the VCR for information includes:

searching one or more of the content nodes, the content node schemas, the hierarchy nodes, and the hierarchy node schemas.